

Health Equity Survey

February 8, 2013

On behalf of the ALPHa-OPHA Health Equity Workgroup, we are pleased to present the initial draft of health equity indicators for Ontario's public health units. This set of six indicators is designed to serve as a self-assessment tool that enables health units to evaluate their performance on activities addressing the social determinants of health and the reduction of health inequalities. The draft set of indicators can be accessed under Resources/Position Papers & Reports at www.alphaweb.org.

To ensure that the proposed indicators are relevant for the planning and reporting needs of public health units, we are giving you an opportunity to provide feedback. Please take the time to complete this short on-line survey by 5 pm on Friday, March 8, 2013.

The workgroup will use your feedback and suggested revisions to modify the indicators and accompanying document prior to its release for health unit use in April 2013. The survey results may also be used for advocacy and educational purposes (e.g., conference presentations) as appropriate by workgroup members, and will be shared with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to support the further development of health equity indicators. Additional information about the indicators and feedback survey will be provided at an OPHA-sponsored webinar on February 13th.

We can assure you that your responses will remain anonymous and confidential: there are no identifier questions in the survey, and the survey results will not be analyzed in a way that names health units or groups health units for comparative purposes. We will be preparing a short report summarizing the survey feedback for dissemination to health units concurrent with the release of the final indicators document. Ideally, we would like to get one response per health unit, so we suggest the utilization of a group process within your health unit to review and comment on the indicators. A printable version of the survey has been provided to assist with your review. Completing the on-line survey should take approximately 30 minutes.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the final set of indicators strengthens the capacity of health units to monitor their equity-focused work. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact Linda Stewart at linda@alphaweb.org or 416-595-0006 extension 22 if you have any questions about the survey or require additional information.

A second part has been added to the survey at the request of Public Health Ontario (PHO). They are currently engaged in operational planning, and want to ensure that their capacity building activities, relative to reducing health inequities and addressing the needs of priority populations (as noted in the requirements of the OPHS, especially the Foundational Standard and PHASP) will meet the needs of the field. To this end, PHO staff greatly appreciates the time and consideration in completing the additional 5-10 minute section of the survey.

Warm Regards,

Rosana Pellizzari, MD, CCFP, MSC, FRCPC
MOH, Peterborough County-City Health Unit
ALPHa Co-Chair

Erika Haney, RN, BScN, MA (ed)
Public Health Nurse-SDOH, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
OPHA Co-Chair

Please note that this version is provided for information only. Please complete the on-line survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BQ7QL5P>.

Thank you!

Health Equity Survey

PART 1 - aIPHa/OPHA Health Equity Workgroup Survey

1. Please complete the following questions to identify:

- a) your health unit's capacity to collect the information specified in the proposed indicator (low - high);
- b) the usefulness of the indicator to guide the planning, implementation and assessment of health unit-level initiatives to reduce health inequities (not at all useful - extremely useful);
- c) any suggested changes to the indicator and/or accompanying information (i.e. questions, data sources, definitions and notes and limitations).

Health Equity Survey

Indicator 1

What percentage of Board of Health reports on health status includes disaggregation of data by social determinants of health (SDOH) where possible?

Example: local health status and surveillance reports provide data that reflects the average rate of tobacco use across your catchment area, as well as the different rate of tobacco use for priority populations within your catchment areas (i.e. individuals living in poverty; those with lower education levels; residents of more deprived areas.

Health unit capacity to collect information specified by indicator 1

1 very low

2

3

4

5 very high

Usefulness of indicator 1 to guide health unit action to reduce health inequities

1 not at all useful

2

3

4

5 extremely useful

Suggested changes (if any) to indicator 1 and accompanying information (questions, data sources, definitions and notes and limitations)

Health Equity Survey

Indicator 2

What is the percentage of Board of Health reports on health status that include an analysis of the social determinants of health (SDOH) for a specified time period?

Example: Your health unit's health status reports, annual reports and/or program related reports provide information on community income levels, housing affordability and unemployment rates and trends over time.

Health unit capacity to collect information specified by indicator 2

1 very low	2	3	4	5 very high
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Usefulness of indicator 2 to guide health unit action to reduce health inequities

1 not at all useful	2	3	4	5 extremely useful
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Suggested changes (if any) to indicator 2 and accompanying information (questions, data sources, definitions and notes and limitations)

Health Equity Survey

Indicator 3

Does the current operations plan of the Board of Health incorporate identification and planning for priority populations? If yes, what is the process?

Example: Your health unit has a formalized process for program and activity planning that includes a process or prompt to identify and consider the specific needs of priority populations (those at greater risk for health inequities)

Health unit capacity to collect information specified by indicator 3

1 very low	2	3	4	5 very high
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Usefulness of indicator 3 to guide health unit action to reduce health inequities

1 not at all useful	2	3	4	5 extremely useful
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Suggested changes (if any) to indicator 3 and accompanying information (questions, data sources, definitions and notes and limitations)

Health Equity Survey

Indicator 4a

Does the Board of Health have a mechanism to ensure that operational planning includes a health equity assessment of programs and services?

Example: Your health unit's program planning process includes a tool that guides planners through the consideration of the potential impacts of their programs and activities on health equity and the social determinants of health inequities

Health unit capacity to collect information specified by indicator 4a

1 very low	2	3	4	5 very high
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Usefulness of indicator 4a to guide health unit action to reduce health inequities

1 not at all useful	2	3	4	5 extremely useful
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Suggested changes (if any) to indicator 4a and accompanying information (questions, data sources, definitions and notes and limitations)

Health Equity Survey

Indicator 4b

How have programs and services changed or been developed based on the health equity assessment?

Example: The location in which your health unit's clinical services are offered has been changed to reflect potential access barriers for members of priority populations

Health unit capacity to collect information specified by indicator 4b

1 very low

2

3

4

5 very high

Usefulness of indicator 4b to guide health unit action to reduce health inequities

1 not at all useful

2

3

4

5 extremely useful

Suggested changes (if any) to indicator 4b and accompanying information (questions, data sources, definitions and notes and limitations)

Health Equity Survey

Indicator 5

Does the Board of Health's strategic plan describe how equity issues will be addressed?

Example: Your Board of Health's strategic priorities include direction to champion and lead public health action in support of health equity

Health unit capacity to collect information specified by indicator 5

1 very low	2	3	4	5 very high
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Usefulness of indicator 5 to guide health unit action to reduce health inequities

1 not at all useful	2	3	4	5 extremely useful
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Suggested changes (if any) to indicator 5 and accompanying information (questions, data sources, definitions and notes and limitations)

Health Equity Survey

Indicator 6

Does the Board of Health participate in local poverty reduction efforts?

Examples: Staff of your health unit have participated in community consultations addressing poverty reduction issues (e.g. the recommendations of the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario. Or, staff participate in local poverty reduction network, if one is present.

Health unit capacity to collect information specified by indicator 6

1 very low	2	3	4	5 very high
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Usefulness of indicator 6 to guide health unit action to reduce health inequities

1 not at all useful	2	3	4	5 extremely useful
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Suggested changes (if any) to indicator 6 and accompanying information (questions, data sources, definitions and notes and limitations)

Health Equity Survey

Please specify any additional indicators that should be used to track public health unit activities to reduce health inequities.

Please specify any revisions to additional sections of the health equity indicators document (i.e. the preamble, Appendix A - Samples, and/or Appendix B - Methods for identifying priority populations).

Please note any additional comments you have regarding the proposed health equity indicators and accompanying information.

Health Equity Survey

You have now completed Part 1 of the survey for the aPHa/OPHA Health Equity Workgroup.

Thank you.

Starting on the next page, you will be answering questions put forward by Public Health Ontario (PHO). Your responses will help PHO to ensure that their capacity building activities relative to reducing health inequities and addressing the needs of priority populations will meet the needs of public health professionals in Ontario. To this end, PHO staff greatly appreciates the time and consideration in completing this additional 5-10 minute section of the survey.

Health Equity Survey

PHO Section 1:

Determining Public Health Unit Capacity Building Priorities Relative to the Foundational Standard.

How helpful would you find the following areas of focus and/or activities?

1 not
at all
helpful

2

3

4

5
extremely
helpful

1. Focus on Measuring and/or Reporting on Health Inequities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1a. Continued development and refinement of centralized analytic tools to assess inequalities (e.g. through Public Health Ontario)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1b. Integration of marginalization and/or deprivation indices into health status reporting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1c. Training/capacity building on the interpretation, integration and/or use of inequality indicators and results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1d. Training/capacity building on the interpretation, integration and/or use of marginalization and/or deprivation indices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1e. Other (please specify)

Health Equity Survey

How helpful would you find the following areas of focus and/or activities?

1 not
at all
helpful

2

3

4

5
extremely
helpful

2. Focus on Identifying Priority Populations

2a. Development of guidelines for the identification of priority populations (using available data)

2b. Training/capacity building health unit staff on the social determinants of health

2c. Other (please specify)

Health Equity Survey

How helpful would you find the following areas of focus and/or activities?

1 not
at all
helpful

2

3

4

5
extremely
helpful

3. Focus on Integrating Health Equity Into Program Planning

3a. Integration of the MOHLTC Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) tool into the On-line Health Program Planner (OHPP)

3b. Staff training/capacity building on integrating health equity assessment into program planning and situational assessment

3c. Staff training/capacity building on conducting health equity impact assessments (e.g. HEIA or equivalent) on their own programs

3d. Staff training/capacity building on training others (i.e. community) to conduct health equity impact assessments (e.g. HEIA or equivalent)

3e. Increasing availability of case studies (including analysis) on the implementation and/or effectiveness of health equity analysis (HEIA or equivalent)

3f. Other (please specify)

Health Equity Survey

How helpful would you find the following areas of focus and/or activities?

1 not
at all
helpful

2

3

4

5
extremely
helpful

4. Focus on Health Equity-related Research and Knowledge Exchange

4a. Primary research, including documentation and/or evaluation of public health unit initiatives on the effects of specific public health programs/activities on health equity outcomes

4b. Literature reviews, summaries or webinars/rounds showcasing international perspectives on health equity

4c. Staff training/capacity building on other/related forms of impact assessment, including health impact assessment and environmental impact assessment

4d. Other (please specify)

Health Equity Survey

How helpful would you find the following areas of focus and/or activities?

	1 not at all helpful	2	3	4	5 extremely helpful	5 extremely helpful
5. Focus on Evaluation of Health Equity Activities and Outcomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5a. Staff training capacity building on strategies to evaluate program impact on health equity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5b. Evaluation of the effectiveness of health equity analysis (HEIA or equivalent) on improving health equity outcomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5c. Evaluation of capacity building efforts to improve action on reducing health inequities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5d. Further development of methods and measures for evaluating population level health equity outcomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5e. Other (please specify)

Health Equity Survey

PHO Section 2:

Targeting Capacity Building Efforts

6. In order to help us to focus the level/type of capacity building activities offered, please reflect on the level of knowledge of the social determinants of health and health equity issues in the following groups that you have experienced:

	1 Novice - would benefit most from basic knowledge/training	2	3	4	5 Expert - would benefit most from consultation/shared-problem solving
Provincial staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boards of health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical officers of health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Directors and officers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Front line staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Health Equity Survey

7. In your opinion, what kinds of capacity building activities related to reducing health inequities should be targeted toward public health unit staff?

8. In your opinion, what kinds of capacity building activities related to reducing health inequalities should be targeted toward public health unit leadership?

9. In your opinion, what kinds of resources (if any) are needed to support capacity building activities related to reducing health inequities should be targeted toward boards of health?

Health Equity Survey

THANK YOU!

That's it!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Your feedback is important to us!